



February 14, 2011

To: Senator Steve Cassano, Co-chair Planning and Development
Representative Linda Gentile, Co-chair Planning and Development
Members Planning and Development Committee

From: JoAnn Messina, Executive Director

Re: Proposed H.B. No. 5049

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OR DESTRUCTION OF TREES

The Greenwich Tree Conservancy supports Rep. Livvy Floren's legislation H.B No. 5049, to enable municipalities to regulate the removal or destruction of trees within their municipal boundaries.

Trees are a vital part of a municipality's health, wealth and sustainability. They absorb CO₂, establish shade, create well-being to name just a few health benefits. Trees add to property values as well as aesthetics of a community and they assist in preventing flooding, erosion and other natural disasters. When a tree is destroyed an entire community can be affected.

This legislation is necessary to allow communities, if they so choose, to prevent clear cutting which increases storm water run-off leading to flooding and erosion problems. It reduces groundwater infiltration and impacts air quality. Neighboring states allow communities to protect their trees. We should as well.

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